

H. R. 25

RESOLUTION 2

A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF HARLEY B. GASTON, FORMER LEGISLATOR.

Whereas, Harley B. Gaston, a native of Gaston County, North Carolina, and long time resident of Belmont, North Carolina, died at the age of 81 on January 3, 1973, after a long and dedicated life of public service, it is fitting that the General Assembly of North Carolina should take note of some of his contributions to the State of North Carolina;

*Now, therefore, be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:*

**Section 1.** That Harley B. Gaston was born in Gaston County, North Carolina, on November 20, 1891, and attended school and graduated from Trinity College (Duke University) and spent three years as a public school teacher. After serving in the United States Army during World War I as a second lieutenant in an infantry company, he returned to North Carolina where he attended the University of North Carolina Law School and earned his law degree.

In 1920, Harley B. Gaston opened a law office in Belmont, North Carolina, in partnership with Emery B. Denny who later became a Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court. Gaston maintained his law practice in Belmont, North Carolina, for 52 years. Since 1955, he had been the senior partner in Gaston, Smith and Gaston.

Harley B. Gaston worked for many years to further the improvement of his community. He served as city attorney, city clerk and treasurer for the city, during which time Belmont grew from a crossroads town of 2,000 to a city of 5,000. He was a former president of the Belmont Rotary Club, former Commander of Auten-Stowe American Legion Post, and served on the advisory boards of Belmont Abbey and Sacred Heart Colleges. He was active in the church affairs of his community, serving as a member of the Board of Stewards of First Methodist Church where he taught the Men's Bible Class for years.

Harley B. Gaston, throughout his life and career, held an active interest in the politics of the State of North Carolina. He served two terms in the State House of Representatives and one term in the North Carolina Senate during the 1920's. Later, he helped launch the careers of many others interested in politics. He was prominent in Gaston County politics for more than 50 years and held many offices within his Party's organization. He served several terms on the Gaston County Board of Elections and in 1967 was named Belmont's Distinguished Citizen of the Year by the Belmont Chamber of Commerce.

In his long and varied career, Harley B. Gaston earned the respect and affection of his fellow workers and colleagues for his courage and candor, his vigor and determination, his keen intelligence, and the lively enthusiasm he gave to all his endeavors.

**Sec. 2.** That the North Carolina General Assembly recognizes and expresses its appreciation for the public services rendered by Harley B. Gaston, services which have contributed greatly to the betterment of North Carolina.

**Sec. 3.** That this resolution shall become a part of the public records of the 1973 Session of the General Assembly of North Carolina, and the Secretary of State shall cause a certified copy to be transmitted to the family of Harley B. Gaston.